

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on April 7, 2006. Claim 7 is amended in accordance with the disclosure. See for instance page 10, line 9 (“The reaction solution thus obtained”). Also, material which had been added to claim 7 is deleted (“without treating ... an acidic substance”). No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 7-9 remain pending in the application.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as containing material which allegedly was not described in the specification. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s assessment in this regard, the material in question has been deleted, thereby obviating this ground of rejection.

Claims herein had previously been rejected as being anticipated by or obvious from US 5,288,831 (Ichinohe et al.). The rejections are not applicable to the present claims.

In the present invention, the reaction mixture obtained by reacting a polyether of the formula (3) or (4) with a hydrogensilicone is subjected to vacuum distillation.

In the Ichinohe et al. technology, vacuum distillation is utilized. However, what is vacuum-distilled by Ichinohe et al. is not the post-reaction solution, but rather a mixture of an aqueous solution having a pH not greater than 7 and the post-reaction solution, as described in lines 4-6 of column 6. In this mixture, decomposition of polyether occurs, as described in line 36 of column 4. Therefore, the mixture in Ichinohe et al. is not a reaction mixture obtained by the reaction between hydrogensilicone and polyether.

In addition, what is distilled off in Ichinohe et al. is propionaldehyde, as described in line 37 of column 4, not unreacted polyethers.

The crux of the Ichinohe et al. technology is to treat the post-reaction solution with an aqueous solution having a pH no greater than 7, as described in lines 30-34 of column 4. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the reference to subject the reaction mixture itself to distillation.

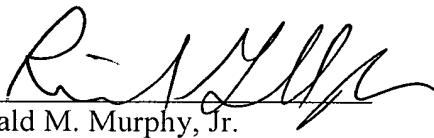
The presently claimed method succeeds in saving a treatment step with an acidic solution, by using a specific polyether of the formula (3) or (4). There is absolutely no foreshadowing of this important benefit in the Ichinohe et al. disclosure.

Withdrawal of the rejection of record is earnestly solicited.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #28,781
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No.: 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant